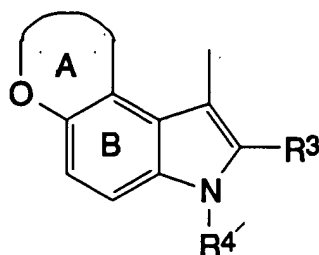
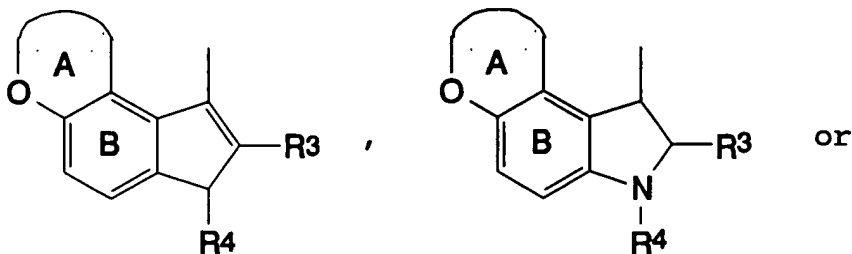
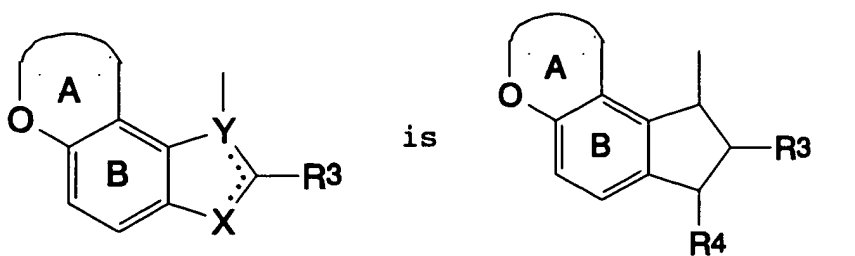


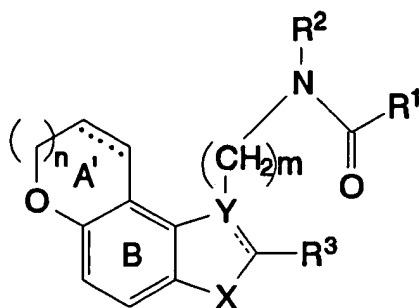
Cont

2650X



wherein R<sup>4</sup> is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group  
[and the other symbols are as defined in claim 1].

4. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1  
which is a compound of the formula:



T2650X

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A'  
Contd

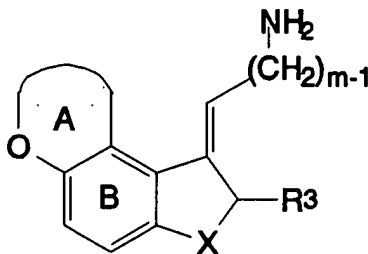
wherein ring A' is an optionally substituted,  
oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

n is an integer of 0 to 2;

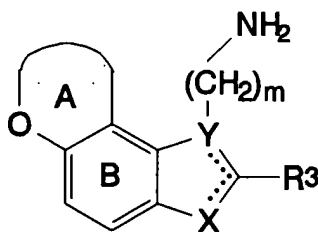
---- and .... are [the same or different and  
each is] independently a single bond or a double bond[;  
and the other symbols are as defined in claim 1].

30. (Amended) A process for producing a compound  
as claimed in claim 1, which comprises:

reacting a compound of the formula (i):



[wherein all symbols are as defined in claim  
1] or a salt thereof, or (ii):



[wherein all symbols are as defined in claim  
1,] or a salt thereof, with a compound of the formula:



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Cont

[wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined in claim 1,] or a salt [thereof] or a reactive derivative thereof[,]; and

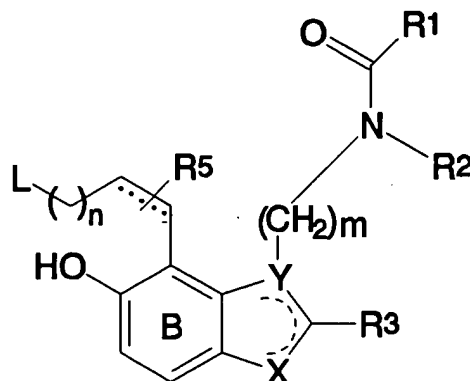
if necessary, subjecting the resultant compound to reduction and/or alkylation.

31. (Amended) A process for producing a compound as claimed in claim 4, which comprises:

subjecting to cyclization a compound of the

formula:

T2670X

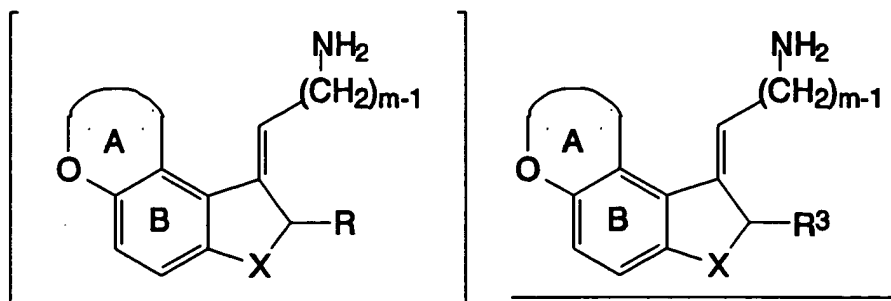


wherein R<sup>5</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted alkoxy group, a hydroxy group, a nitro group, a cyano group or an optionally substituted amino group; L represents a leaving group[; and the other symbols are as defined in claim 4], or a salt thereof [to cyclization,]; and

if necessary, subjecting the resultant compound to reduction.

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32. (Amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein [the symbols are defined in claim 1]

R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

X represents CHR<sup>4</sup>, NR<sup>4</sup>, O or S in which R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4,

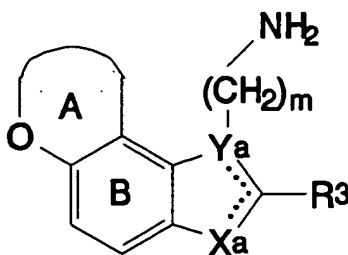
or a salt thereof.

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A<sup>2</sup>  
cont

T2690X

33. (Amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein  $X^a$  represents  $\text{CHR}^{4a}$ ,  $\text{NR}^{4a}$ , O or S in which  $R^{4a}$  represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group;

$Y^a$  represents C, CH or N, provided that when  $X^a$  is NH or  $\text{NCH}_3$ ,  $Y^a$  is CH or N; [and the other symbols are as defined in claim 1]

..... represents a single bond or a double bond;

$R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

ring A represents an optionally substituted, 5- to 7-membered oxygen-containing heterocyclic ring;

ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring; and

m represents an integer of 1 to 4,  
or a salt thereof.

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A<sup>2</sup>  
Cont

34. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35. (Amended) A composition as claimed in claim 34 [which] wherein said compound or said pharmaceutically acceptable salt has a binding affinity for melatonin receptor.

<sup>37</sup>  
36. (Amended) A [composition] method as claimed in claim [35] <sup>36</sup>~~40~~ which [is a regulating agent of] regulates circadian rhythm.

<sup>38</sup>  
37. (Amended) A [composition] method as claimed in claim [35] <sup>36</sup>~~40~~ which [is a regulating agent of] regulates sleep-awake rhythm.

<sup>39</sup>  
38. (Amended) A [composition] method as claimed in claim [35] <sup>36</sup>~~40~~ which [is a regulating agent of] regulates time zone change syndrome.

<sup>40</sup>  
39. (Amended) A [composition] method as claimed in claim [35] <sup>36</sup>~~40~~ which [is a therapeutic agent of] treats or prevents sleep disorders.